

# CITY OF REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION

## Trails Commission Meeting MINUTES — February 22, 2006 Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

**TRAILS COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chairperson, Smith; Co-Chair Barnfather; Commissioners Bechmann, Chenault, McDonald, Eades, Youth Advocate, Pfaff.

**ABSENT AND EXCUSED:** Commissioner Scott

**CITY STAFF:** Director of Parks and Recreation, Craig Larsen; Tim Cox, Park Planning Manager and Sharon Sato, Recording Secretary.

**AUDIENCE:** 3 - Seth Kelsey, Park Board member; Nancy McCormick, Councilmember; and Kris Colt, former Commission member.

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*Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.*

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Trails Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Smith at 7:01 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC), Room 201.

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion to approve the January 25, 2006 RTC as presented:** Commissioner Bechmann

**Second by:** Commissioner Barnfather

**Motion carried:** Unanimous 6-0

### **III. CHENAULT RECOGNITION**

A presentation was made and a certificate was presented to Chenault for her 17+ years of dedicated service to the City and community. Chenault is one of three county representatives on the Commission and has brought valuable insight and expertise to the development of trails in Redmond and the immediate surrounding areas. Chenault has been a valuable member of the Commission and will be missed.

McCormick thanked Chenault for her years of service on the Commission, as well as her guidance, time, dedication, interest and mentoring is greatly appreciated.

Colt added her thanks and appreciation for Chenault's hard work, support and vision.

Smith conveyed the Mayor's thanks and appreciation as well as the Trails Commission thanks.

#### **IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE/HANDOUTS**

##### **A. Downtown SWOT Revisions**

Cox presented the Downtown SWOT revisions to the Commission. These revisions were made due to the comments and review of the Commission at last months' meeting. The document will be formatted and finalized to send on to the Park Board for inclusion in the neighborhood SWOT analysis.

Cox asked for any final changes. Smith noted that Bechmann recommended that the extension to the Sammamish River Trail should be added to the opportunity column.

McDonald reiterated his comments from last month regarding the west side of the Sammamish River Trail, from the railroad trestle to 90th; he commented that a new company had purchased a building along the trail and would be open to improve the existing trail along side the river. Cox will research further, if contacted by new building owners and report to the Board at their next meeting.

Cox added that the SWOT would be beneficial in identifying opportunities for the future Parks Improvement Plan update within the PRO Plan. Staff remains optimistic regarding more trail construction money and grant opportunities based on recent projects (i.e. Evans Creek Trail).

Bechmann added that there is a great limitation on the number of equestrian crossings between east of the Sammamish River to West Lake Sammamish Parkway, no safe crossing south of 90th. Pfaff noted that there is a trail bridge crossing at the Leary Street Bridge. Eades commented equestrian crossings should be part of the City's trail plan. Chenault added that there was an unofficial trail under Redmond Way behind Safeway. Eades suggested this as an action item for the Commission. Barnfather noted that there was a trail on the perimeter of Marymoor Park allowing through way from the Redmond Fall City Road area to the Sammamish Trail. Smith summarized by suggesting adding an opportunity from East Lake Sammamish Trail for connection to the Sammamish River Trail.

##### **B. Railbanking Information**

Smith noted that information provide the Commission was an FYI item and was relevant to the Burlington Northern Rails to Trails Plan.

##### **C. Completed Trail Connections Council Memo**

Cox presented the completed draft Trails Connection memo to Council for the Commission's approval. The finalized memo will be sent to Council.

##### **D. Trailbuilders Conference Materials**

Linda Gorremans, Park Planner, attended a 4-day Trailbuilders Conference in Reno, NV. in February highlighting effective trail building techniques. Materials from the conference will be given to the Commission at their March meeting.

## **V. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS**

### **A. Meet Craig Larsen, Director**

The Commission welcomed Craig Larsen, new Director of Parks and Recreation. Larsen was previously employed as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Lynnwood and prior to that Parks Director for King County.

### **B. Top Ten Neighborhood Connections**

Smith noted a difference in the Trails Commission's and Bike Ped Committee connectors lists and asked Commission members if coordination of the two lists of actual trails would be recommended. The Commission agreed the lists did not have to be meshed as long as the effort and coordination were the same. Issues for the Commission and Committee may differ, however, an agreement on the similar end results is the goal. The lists could be cross referenced and coordinated (i.e. Trails Commission or Bike-Ped Committee).

Bechmann suggested that the Bike-Ped Committee might be more "street bike" and transportation oriented, however, both the Commission and Committee have the same interests in trail development and goals of the master plan.

McDonald added that at last months' meeting the Commission spoke more toward guidelines to follow and not specific connections.

Smith noted that a September 2006 goal could coincide with the TIP bi-annual review. Deadlines need to be met in order to meet the review - City Council, etc. Smith suggested the working list be reviewed and discussed at the next Commission meeting.

Cox noted that on the January Bike-Ped agenda a list of 52 items (work in progress) were presented. Cox and Smith will discuss which up to date list should be made available to the Commission. Cox noted that staff found similarities on the draft paper the Commission put together and the identified connections and criteria list.

### **C. North Redmond Neighborhood Trails**

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) put together a final draft of the policies that have may affect private project submittals. This area is the north of the PSE Right-of-Way. Cox noted that the developer of a new project is responsible for either the construction of a trail or the dedication of right-of-way for a trail if it is in the City's Comprehensive Plan (PRO Plan and Trails Plan). Those trails not identified by the City trail Network Plan cannot be implemented via the City's zoning code.

The North Neighborhood Plan originally identified trails on all streams in the north neighborhood of the city, within stream buffers (ranging from 50' to 150'). Trails can be built within the outer fourth of a buffer. Cox inquired if the Commission would like to consider promoting a policy that would, as PRO Plan revisions are done this year, identify streams as trail hiking corridors. Staff would be able to identify and require right of way or construction of trails adjacent to stream areas as development occurs.

Chenault noted that the Fairwinds Condominiums had developed/built a trail next to a stream as part of their development. Cox responded that this trail is a private trail and is not on the City's trail map and is not maintained by city staff. A 100'-150' buffer was required of the development.

Cox noted that if a process was devised to show allowable and buildable trails (along a Class II, III and IV stream corridors) when development occurred, these projects would be "earmarked" and the developer would need to, as part of the development, build the trail or provide a trail easement. He also noted that revisions to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PRO Plan) would be taking place this year. The Commission may choose to revise the current map to reflect the addition of source trails adjacent to streams.

Barnfather questioned the appropriateness of a trail built on both sides of stream without evaluating feasibility. Bechmann suggested adding, "where at all feasible to..."). Cox responded that detailed development site plans would show the feasibility through topography, buffers, and streams. Trails adjacent to most streams would soft surface hiking trails. Cox noted that this would be on a project by project basis and the trail location would be in the outer 1/4 of the buffer and if not feasible no constructing would occur.

The Commission discussed all utility trail easements on new development and possibly adding language to policy to allow public access on the recorded deed. The Commission agreed that this would be something that they would like staff to further research for future discussion.

Cox stated the next step would be to have staff take this issue to the City's Technical Committee and other city staff who will research so further discussion will take place at next months' meeting.

#### D. Reports

##### a. Slough Park/Trailhead

Staff has been in contact with King County regarding the transfer of the Slough House/Dudley Carter Site. King County staff is working on the transfer report to present to the County Council. Smith felt the park would be a good location for a trailhead due to the possible connection of the proposed trail through the Heron Rookery, which would connect to the Burlington Northern.

Cox reported that funds are allocated in the 2006 Parks CIP budget for interim improvements - eg. temporary parking spaces, portable restroom facilities, landscaping, picnic tables. The site will need a master plan for the 2.5 acres. Cox added that the Haida House has been identified as a valuable cultural resource of the City.

Eades inquired when the Commission could begin their input on the first phase (interim plan) of the process before the Master Planning stage begins. They would like to see the portable restrooms, six parking spaces (or what is feasible) and a trailhead sign.

The Commission suggested a meeting with the Park Board and Arts Commission where three aspects could be discussed - art, trails, park planning. Park master planning will be determined by public process.

- b. Evans Creek Trail - Deferred to next meeting
- c. Trail at Bear Creek Park - Deferred to next month
- d. Bear Creek Trail @ Avondale - Deferred to next month
- e. Bear Creek Parkway @ Heron Rookery - Deferred to next month
- f. William Pipeline - Deferred to next month
- g. Election of Officers - Action for election of officers at April meeting.
- h. National Trails Day - Saturday, June 3, 2006. Cox suggested a ribbon cutting celebration for the completed Evans Creek Trail and an alternative of partnering with REI on a booth. Smith asked Commissioners to e-mail any suggestions. Barnfather suggested a short walking trail loop, maps and trail/trail connection education, partnering with local businesses.
- i. Commissioner Selection Process -  
Three applications. Interviews are pending per the Mayor's schedule. Eades, Bechmann, Smith and staff will be involved in the interview process.

E. Coming Attractions

- a. Maintenance and Operations Report - Quarterly report handout at next meeting.
- b. PRO Plan Update - who, what, when and how, next meeting.
- c. Meetings @ City Hall - Commissioners agreed that meetings will be held in the new City Hall Building beginning in March. Staff will make arrangements.

- d. Trails Masters Course - Set for June, sponsored through the Pacific Northwest Endurance Riding Club and the National Endurance Riding Organization, how to build sustainable trails. 3-day course, participants will receive Trails Master Designation near Yakima, Washington.

Washington Trails Association also has a course for Trail Boss certification.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair McDonald at 9:13 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Sharon Sato

<p><b>Audiotapes of regular Trails Commission meetings are available at the Parks and Recreation Office at (425) 556-2311.</b></p>
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**THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:  
Wednesday, March 29, 2006  
City Hall - City Council Conference Room  
7:00 p.m.**